



## ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

### ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics – December 2019

The following data is authorised for release by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and relates to the number of formal indictments (*Information*) filed in the High Courts of Fiji by the Director of Public Prosecutions throughout the month. This data is confined to incidents of serious crimes other than sexual violence offences which are recorded and published separately. This data also includes offences committed by police officers.

There were 55 people charged with a total of 57 counts of separate incidents in December. The offences were murder (2), attempted murder (1), aggravated robbery (10), robbery (3), aggravated burglary (6), theft (5), assault causing actual bodily harm (1), serious assault (5), acts with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (3), trafficking in persons (1), making threats at an airport (3), dangerous driving causing grievous harm (1), careless driving (1), tampering with motor vehicle (1), unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (4), unlawful importation of illicit drugs (1), perjury (7), receiving a corrupting benefit (1) and breach of DVRO (1).

Of the 55 accused persons, eight were juveniles and 11 were police officers. The juveniles were charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences. Four male police officers and three female police officers were charged with perjury. These seven police officers conspired by making false statements in relation to a traffic case. A 29-year-old police officer was charged with dangerous driving causing grievous harm to a 27-year-old man while a 33-year-old police officer was charged with careless driving. A 34-year-old police officer was charged with tampering with a motor vehicle after an accident while in a separate incident a 39-year-old police officer was charged with receiving a corrupting benefit whereby he obtained the benefit of an outboard motor engine.

There were 34 victims of the 57 counts of separate incidents. Of the 34, there were three incidents where the accused persons and victims were related to one another.

A 26-year-old military officer was charged with the murder of his four-month old daughter. The accused is alleged to have caused the death of his daughter with a block of concrete as he tried to hit his wife.

In another incident, a 19-year-old man was charged with the murder of a police officer. The accused is also charged with robbery, aggravated robbery and serious assault. The accused allegedly stabbed the police officer who was trying to arrest him for robbery and aggravated robbery offences. The accused seriously assaulted three other police officers while resisting arrest.

A 50-year-old man was charged with the attempted murder of his 47-year-old wife. The accused was also charged for breaching a DVRO. However, this matter was withdrawn due to insufficient evidence.

A 66-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to his 44-year-old wife by throwing a pot of boiling tea over her.

An 18-year-old-year-old man was charged with an act with intent to cause grievous harm to his 60-year-old housemate. The victim subsequently died of a heart attack.

In another incident, a 28-year-old man was charged with an act with intent to cause grievous harm to two victims and seriously assaulting a police officer while resisting arrest.

A 31-year-old woman was charged with trafficking in persons. The accused allegedly trafficked a 22-year-old woman from Fiji to Hong Kong.

There were three separate incidents where three people were charged with making threats at an airport. A man and two women allegedly told security officers at an airport that they were carrying guns and bombs in their bags.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$90 to over \$10,000 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary, theft offences which consisted of home invasions, shop and restaurant break-ins, and daylight and night street robberies.

There were three separate incidents where foreign nationals were allegedly robbed. A 21-year-old man and a 24-year-old man were charged with the aggravated robbery of over \$10,000 worth of electronic goods from a 19-year-old French national.

In one incident, a 34-year-old man and a 29-year-old man was charged with the aggravated robbery of \$1,800 cash from a 22-year-old Chinese national, however, this matter was withdrawn after the victim returned to China and could not be contacted. In another incident, an 18-year-old man and a 22-year-old man were charged with the aggravated robbery of cash and assorted items from a Canadian national, however, this matter was withdrawn due to insufficient evidence.

A 20-year-old man and a 32-year-old man were charged with the unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs. The two allegedly cultivated 82 kilograms of *cannabis sativa*.

In another incident, a 33-year-old man was charged with the unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs. However, this matter was withdrawn due to insufficient evidence.

A 45-year-old man was charged with the unlawful importation of illicit drugs. The accused allegedly imported 382.1 grams of methamphetamine.

Four cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence and victims returning to their countries and could not be contacted.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics December 2019* for a break-down of these statistics.



**ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) December 2019**

	<b>Total No. of Counts</b>	<b>Total No. of accused persons</b>	<b>Total No. of victims</b>	<b>No. of Nolle Prosequi filed</b>	<b>Incidents involving domestic relations</b>	<b>No. of Police officers charged</b>
<b>Murder</b>	2	2	2	0	1	0
<b>Attempted murder</b>	1	1	1	1	1	0
<b>Aggravated robbery</b>	10	15	15	3	0	0
<b>Robbery</b>	3	3	3	0	0	0
<b>Aggravated burglary</b>	6	13	4	0	0	0
<b>Theft</b>	5	13	4	0	0	0
<b>Assault causing actual bodily harm</b>	1	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Serious Assault</b>	5	4	10	0	0	0
<b>Acts with intent to cause grievous bodily harm</b>	3	2	3	0	0	0
<b>Trafficking in persons</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Making threats at an airport</b>	3	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Dangerous driving causing grievous harm</b>	1	1	1	0	0	1
<b>Careless driving</b>	1	1	1	0	0	1
<b>Tampering with motor vehicle</b>	1	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs</b>	4	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Unlawful importation of illicit drugs</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Perjury</b>	7	7	0	0	0	7
<b>Receiving a corrupting benefit</b>	1	1	0	0	0	1

<b>Breach of DVRO</b>	1	1	1	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	57	55*	34*	4*	3*	11
	Source: ODPP Fiji					

**\* Please note that a number of accused persons may also have been charged with other serious offences. Similarly, a number of victims for one crime have also been victims of other serious crimes.**

**\* Please also note that sexual violence offences are recorded and published separately.**

**6 January 2020.**

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